

Technology Standards

Category:	ITC Number: ITC-WEB-S-0501
Subcategory:	Name: Accessibility
Definition:	Making Web sites accessible to people with disabilities. All State Web sites should be as accessible as possible within the guidelines of the latest HTML standard as published by the W3C. It is important that all information that the state provides on its Web sites, which are necessary to state residents, be as accessible as possible.
Justification:	Federal and State law require accessibility for State Web sites.
Specifications:	Please visit the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (http://www.w3.org/WAI/) for current guidelines in Web accessibility.
Recommendations:	After reviewing, the Internet Users Group committee voted to follow Level One guidelines to make all state Web sites accessible. Exceptions should use good judgment, such as: online educational activities using non-accessible technology, such as Shockwave; paper documents that require a PDF; audio or video streams for which alternate text is not available or not meaningful. Top level and information pages should load in a reasonable time. Special use pages (such as those supporting media) may require longer download times, tools or the newest browsers, but visitors should be warned, and if at all possible, the information should be available by alternate means. Any special tools required to access a page should have links to where the tools can be obtained, and easy instructions should be provided for their installation. The use of accessibility guideline tools, like Bobby, is encouraged; however, state Web sites do not have to receive the Bobby seal of approval.